

IX. Web Sites, Trainings, and Other Useful Resources

A. Web Sites

- **General Information**
- **Adoption and Foster Care**
- **Court Adoption and Permanency Month**
- **Permanency**
- **Recruitment and Support for Foster/Adoptive Parents**

A. Web Sites

Although there are thousands of Web sites related to adoption, foster care, and permanency, listed below are some of the most helpful in providing general information, tips and toolkits, statistics, and other aids for learning more about adoption and permanency, or specifically about Court Adoption and Permanency Month. Both national and California Web sites are included.

General Information

California Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC): Our own Web site contains information on many different topics, including program descriptions, research, technical assistance, and resources. Updated information on adoption and permanency will be added in fall 2005.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc

California Courts Online Self-Help Center: This useful site includes a section on adoption, with a Q&A section, all forms related to adoption, and links to other Web sites. It is available in both English and Spanish.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/adoption/

California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services Division: Provides information specific to California on adoptions, child abuse prevention and how to report it, foster care and help for foster youth, statistics, and other services.

www.childsworld.ca.gov

Child Welfare Research Center: Child Welfare Services CWS/CMS reports are available with statistics on foster care in California.

<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/childwelfare>

Juvenile Law Center: A site for judges, attorneys, social workers, health-care workers, and childcare professionals. It is a broad-based organization for all areas of children's rights nationwide, but it does contain many useful publications about child welfare. Much of its focus is on Pennsylvania since it is based in Philadelphia.

www.jlc.org/home/publications

United States Census 2000 Special Report—Adopted Children and Stepchildren 2000: Special report issued in October 2003 about the number of adopted children and stepchildren in U.S. households. This is the first time that the census asked a specific question related to adoption on the census.

www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-6.pdf

Adoption and Foster Care

Adoption.org: National-based organization devoted to relaying information both for those adopting and those who may consider placing their child for adoption. It does have some information specific to California. It has links to many other sites specific to adoption. See below for a section on National Adoption Awareness Month.

www.adoption.org

AFTER Adoption Resources: Though their services are for residents living in Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Mateo Counties, the Web site also has a library and research center.

www.afteradoption.org

Alliance for Children's Rights: The mission of the Alliance for Children's Rights is protecting the rights and futures of abused and impoverished children throughout Los Angeles County, in hopes of creating a world in which all children are able to have a safe and permanent family, a quality education, and all of the support and services they rightfully deserve. Their Adoption Program helps streamline the system and create tools to expedite adoptions of children from foster care.

www.kids-alliance.org/default.asp

California Kids Connection: A collaborative effort between the California Department of Social Services and Family Builders by Adoption. The site provides a photo listing of California's children who are available for adoption (with the birth parent(s)'s or court's permission to publicize).

www.CAKidsConnection.com

Casey Family Programs: Casey Family Programs' mission is to provide and improve—and ultimately to prevent the need for—foster care. Established by United Parcel Service founder Jim Casey, they are a Seattle-based national operating foundation that has served children, youth, and families in the child welfare system since 1966. They have local offices in both the Bay Area and in Los Angeles.

www.casey.org/home

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute: The Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) was created in 1985 as a bicameral, bipartisan caucus of members of Congress dedicated to improving adoption policy and practice, and to focusing public attention on the advantages of adoption. In 2001, the CCA's active co-chairs created the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) to more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about the issue of adoption. One of the programs they support is National Adoption Day.

www.ccaainstitute.org/index.php

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption: A nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to increasing the adoptions of the more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care system.

www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org/index.asp

Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute: Founded in 1996, a national nonprofit organization devoted to improving adoption policy and practice. The Adoption Institute is a reliable, unbiased, and respected voice for ethical adoption practices that respect all people touched by adoption.

www.adoptioninstitute.org/whowe/intro.html

Family Builders by Adoption: The agency focuses on finding adoptive families for children with special needs in the California foster care system, and is based in Oakland, California.

www.familybuilders.org

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse: This site includes an online toolkit with suggestions for planning events, working with the media, recruitment, and other ways for encouraging adoption of children from foster care. Their campaign theme for 2005 was “Answering the Call: You Don’t Have to Be Perfect to Be a Perfect Parent.” The site also includes other helpful information such as statistics, suggestions on how to adopt, and tips for professionals, prospective families, parents, and teachers.

<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/adoptmonth/index.cfm>

Toolkit: *http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/adoptmonth/adopt_toolkit.cfm*

North American Council on Adoptable Children: Includes many resources on adoption, including the National Adoption Awareness Month Guide.

www.nacac.org

Perspectives Press: Provides books, articles, and workshops for consumers and professionals on adoption, fostering, and other family choices.

www.perspectivespress.com/

Sierra Adoption Services: An agency that serves 12 North-Central California counties whose mission is to transform the lives of foster children by finding and nurturing permanent adoptive families.

www.sierraadoption.org

Court Adoption and Permanency Month Information

Adoption.org: National Adoption Awareness Month: Listing of resources relating to National Adoption Awareness Month in November. The site also includes many ideas for events, celebrations, and other ways to heighten awareness of the need for permanent homes for children awaiting adoption.

www.adoption.org/adopt/national-adoption-awareness-month.php

National Adoption Month: A site that celebrates the “collective national effort to raise awareness about the 118,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families . . . National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with courts, judges, attorneys, and advocates to finalize their adoptions into permanent families and to celebrate adoption.” The site contains multiple resources, a listing of all events nationwide (you can register your own events at this site), toolkits, and ways to work with the media.

www.nationaladoptionday.org/2005/index.asp

Permanency

California Permanency for Youth Project: The project works to ensure that all children who “age out” of the foster care system have a permanent, lifelong connection with a caring adult. The site “provides information on programs and strategies for accomplishing permanency for foster youth, including: 1. Best Youth Permanency Practices; 2. Identified barriers to permanency for youth; 3. Updates on four California counties that are working to improve permanency outcomes for youth; 4. Updates on the California Task Force for Youth Permanency; 5. Summaries of 2002, 2003 & 2004 National Youth Permanency meetings.”

www.cpyyp.org

California Youth Connection: An organization made up of current and former foster youth who use their experiences with the child welfare system to improve foster care, educate the public and policy makers about their unique needs, and change the negative stereotypes many people have of foster youth. The site includes publications relating to older foster youth and permanency.

www.cal-youthconn.org/site/cyc

A Guide To Permanency Options For Youth: The Alameda County Social Services Agency and the California Permanency for Youth Project produced this guide to serve as a tool for all those that work towards finding permanent connections for youth in foster care.

<http://acfya.com/documents/Guide.pdf>

National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning: It provides training and technical assistance and distributes information that “focuses on increasing the capacity and resources of State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to promote family-centered practices that contribute to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children while meeting the needs of their families.” It also publishes a biannual newsletter with online archives dating back to 1999 available for download on the site. The list of topics in each of these newsletters is included in the Supplemental Materials section.

www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/about-us.html

Newsletters: www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/newsletters.html

Kevin Campbell: This California Permanency for Youth Project site provides information about family finding and the use of new technology to find family members. This site also allows the viewer to review a slide presentation as well as a link to view a Webcast.

www.cpyyp.org/reports.htm#fire

www.cpyyp.org/consultants

Robert G. Lewis: Mr. Lewis provides consultations and trainings in the area of permanency for foster care youth. You will find handouts, charts and a wealth of information to help with communication techniques for all members of a birth family as well as resource families working with youth in care.

www.rglewis.com

You Gotta Believe: The Older Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that places children and youth. They are a homeless prevention program that seeks to prevent homelessness by finding permanent moral and legal adoptive homes for teens and preteen children in foster care. They provide training for social workers and other professionals as well as pre and post adoption support for parents.
www.yougottabelieve.org

Recruitment and Support for Foster/Adoptive Parents

Kinship Center: This agency supports adoptive families by creating programs that offer education, counseling and many other post-placement services to nurture success in children and families. They have offices located in Salinas, San Jose, Santa Ana, Pasadena and Redlands, California.

www.kinshipcenter.org

Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting: An organization providing legal information, training, referral, and support for foster parents, relatives raising children, and adoptive families and their child. They support policies that ensure that every child in foster care finds a permanent, loving family.

www.lapponline.org

Post Adoption Center for Education and Research: Helps families to better understand that adoption is a lifelong process and an intergenerational journey. PACER serves all members of the adoption triad (adoptees, birthparents, and adoptive parents) by providing comprehensive information and ongoing emotional support. PACER encourages truth and openness among all participants in the adoption process.

www.pacer-adoption.org

Tapestry Books: This Web site is a complete source for adoption books. The list of publications on this site range from preadoption to adoptive parenting for children, foster parents, adoptees/birthparents, and professionals. The Web site is continually updated and lets you order publications directly on the site.

www.tapestrybooks.com:

B. Training Materials and Information

- Judicial Review and Technical Assistance (JRTA)
Project Permanency Fact Sheet
- Annual National Convening on Youth Permanence,
Sample Agenda and Press Release From 2006
Conference

***Please also see Section VI. Adoptive Families: Training, Recruitment, and Support for many other training-related resources.**



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FACT SHEET

September 2006

Judicial Review and Technical Assistance (JRTA) Project—Permanency

The permanency project is an initiative that provides judicial education and technical assistance at a limited number of courts on expanding approaches to permanency for dependent children and their families.

Collaborative Workshops

Workshops, lasting from a few hours to half a day, are offered in the 11 largest counties in California. Judicial officers from each local court identify issues and challenges to permanency, and these serve as topics for workshop agendas. All members of the juvenile dependency court system are invited to attend.

The workshops are collaborative in nature. In coordination with the presiding juvenile court judge, local court and county participants are invited to shape the agenda and present. Presenters have included judicial officers, social workers, mediators, foster care youth, attorneys, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)s. The purpose of these workshops is to share information on local and national permanency programs. Participants come together at these workshops to learn and strategize about the development, utilization, and strengthening of these programs.

Participating Counties

The counties that have held collaborative workshops include: Fresno, Kern, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Clara.

Topics Covered

- Roles of Each Participant in Permanency Planning
- Objectives—Permanency Is Everyone’s Job
- Expanding Approaches and Definitions Relating to Permanency
- Relative Assessments
- Initial Hearings—Reasonable Efforts, Services, Visitation
- Case Plan Development
- Finding Relatives and Connections for Youth
- Concurrent Planning
- Engaging Youth in the Decision-Making Process
- Placement Assessments
- Expanding Mediation in Dependency Cases
- Aging Out of Care—Independent Living Programs
- Adoption—Openness and Focus on Older Youth

Upcoming Trainings

Los Angeles County

Two collaborative workshops are scheduled in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Partnership Conference on October 5, 2006: (1) “Promising Practices in Permanency Programs”—an overview of some of the permanency improvement goals in the *Los Angeles System Improvement Plan* and local practices to implement the plan, such as the use of resource families, concurrent planning, and the permanency partners program, as well as other promising practices from around the state and nation; and (2) “Finding Permanency for Teens—Changing the Odds,” which will be conducted with Mr. Pat O’Brien from You Gotta Believe! This is an interactive workshop designed to explore and addresses the crisis faced by teenagers languishing in long-term foster care as well as the issues of teens aging out of foster care without a permanent connection to a caring adult.

Alameda County

The collaborative workshop in Alameda County is scheduled for November 15, 2006. The workshop will cover such promising practices as their innovative program in finding lifelong connections for youth, sponsored by the California Permanency for Youth Project.

Contacts:

Jennifer Walter, Supervising Attorney, jennifer.walter@jud.ca.gov or 415-865-7687
Kelly Beck, Attorney, kelly.beck@jud.ca.gov or 415-865-8011

Additional resources:

Training materials and other permanency resources are available on the Center for Families, Children & the Courts Web site at:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/jrta.htm.

A two-part DVD set produced by the Administrative Office of the Courts, entitled *Permanency With Bob Lewis*, is available upon request.

National Convening on Youth Permanence Addresses Needs of Older Children and Youth in Foster Care; Sept 1415

9/14/2006 5:30:00 AM

To: Assignment Desk, Daybook Editor

Contact: Roye Anastasio-Bourke of Casey Family Services, 203-530-8402; Marci Bransdorf of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 301-257-7348; Nicole Tidwell of CCMC, 202-715-0385

News Advisory:

Close to 400 child welfare commissioners, legislators, attorneys, judges, researchers, professionals, families, and youth from 41 states, Native American tribal nations, and the District of Columbia will take a close look at the barriers to finding permanent families for youth in foster care. The 2006 National Convening on Youth Permanence is set for September 14- 15, 2006 in Washington, D.C. at the Renaissance Washington Hotel (999 Ninth Street, NW). The conference will look at the serious challenges to finding and maintaining permanent family connections for the more than 255,000 young people who are 11 or older and in foster care.

"Family permanence and strengthening reunification efforts for youth in care and their families is important to us at the Casey Foundation," says Douglas W. Nelson, president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. "It reflects our history and commitment to stability and family permanence for all children. In addition, we see the benefits of public/private partnerships in this area and community collaborations that make a difference for the children and youth in our care."

At the National Convening on Thursday, Sept. 14 and Friday, Sept. 15, there will be numerous sessions addressing the needs of older children and youth in foster care:

Thursday, Sept. 14:

9:30 a.m. -- Telling the Story: Youth Perspectives on Permanence - Plenary Session

Panelists: Lauren Frey, Project Manager, the Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice, Casey Family Services, New Haven, CT; Daniel Knapp, Conference Director and Youth Communication Coordinator, FosterClub, Seaside, OR; Nancy O'Reilly, young adult, Modesto, CA; and Nadege Mardy Breeden, young adult, Norwalk, CT.

10:45 a.m. -- There will be a series of small group sessions. The sessions open to the media are:

- o Leadership to Implement the Vision of Youth Permanence

Moderator: Allen Casad, Massachusetts Division Director, Casey Family Services.

Panelists: Harry Spence, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Social Services; and Mary Gambon, Assistant Commissioner for Adoption and Foster Care Services, Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

o Teaming Strategies: Building Lifelong Family Relationships for Older Children and Youth in Residential Care

Moderator: Isabel Morales, Senior Project Associate, Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice, Casey Family Services, New Haven, CT.

Presenters: James Beougher, Director, Maine Bureau of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and Heather Stephenson, Team Leader, Maine Division, Casey Family Services.

o The Impact of Youth Permanence Initiatives on Reducing Racial Disproportionality and Disparities

Moderator: Carolyn Rodriguez, Texas State Strategy Director, Casey Family Programs.

Panelists: Joyce James, Child Protective Services Assistant Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; Debra Emerson, Director of Policy and Programs, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; and Vickie Coffee-Fletcher, Division Administrator, Family Focus, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Friday, Sept. 15:

8:30 a.m. -- Reflections on Lessons Learned

Raymond L. Torres, Executive Director, Casey Family Services, New Haven, CT

o Reports from the 2006 National Convening on Youth Permanence

Research Roundtable and Policy Briefing

Sania A. Metzger, Director of Policy, Casey Family Services, New Haven, CT; and Ben Kerman, Director of Research, Casey Family Services, New Haven, CT.

9 a.m. -- Telling the Story: Effective Court and Legal Partnerships to Achieve Permanence for Older Children and Youth - Plenary Session

Moderator: Gary Stangler, Executive Director, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative.

Panelists: The Honorable William Thorne, Jr., Utah Court of Appeals; Robert Harris, Public Guardian, Cook County Illinois Public Guardian's Office; Elizabeth Fassler, Litigation Supervisor, Center for Family Representation, Inc.; and Jennifer Rodriguez, Legislative and Policy Coordinator, California Youth Connection

10:15 a.m. -- Telling the Story: Working with the Media

Moderated by Judy Woodruff, Special Correspondent, the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

According to the most recent (2004) federal data on youth in care:

-- Nearly 50 percent (255,364) were age 11 or older;

-- Twenty percent were not living with families;

-- Fifty-eight percent were minorities, with African Americans comprising 34 percent, Hispanics 18 percent, Native Americans 2 percent and Asians 1 percent;

-- Service plans for many called for long-term foster care and emancipation rather than family reunification, guardianship placement, or adoption; and

-- More than 20,000 will be left on their own with no meaningful connection to a family member or caring adult when they reach the age of majority.

More than 25,000 foster youth "age out" of state care or run away every year before authorities can reunite them with their parents, place them permanently with relatives, or secure an adoptive family. These vulnerable youth lack ongoing connections to family members or caring adults. Without a lifelong committed family relationship, these young people are at high risk for negative outcomes including homelessness, unemployment and criminal activity.

Outcomes for youth who have "aged out" of care continue to be poor:

-- In one study, 46 percent had not completed high school; 50 percent were unemployed; and 25 percent had experienced homelessness four years after leaving care.

-- Eighty percent of youths did not earn enough to be fully self-supporting four years after leaving care.

-- In another study, more than 20 percent had been arrested since leaving care and 90 percent were earning less than \$10,000 a year, according to a survey of 19-year-old former foster youth from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin.

"This Convening is an important opportunity to share ideas and articulate ways to implement new strategies that will change the way this country cares for the more than a half-million children in foster care," said Ray Torres, executive director of Casey Family Services. "Through research and on-the-ground work, we will show that family permanence for older children and youth in foster care is possible, powerful and must become a national priority."

The Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, MD and its direct-service agency, Casey Family Services of New Haven, CT, longtime innovators in the field of child welfare policy and practice, are lead sponsors for the policy briefing and the National Convening, with support from The Freddie Mac Foundation, The Dave Thomas Foundation For Adoption, Casey Family Programs, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, The Hite Foundation, The Stuart Foundation and 37 other nationally known organizations.

On-site registration is available for the media at the event location, the Renaissance Washington Hotel at 999 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

For more information on the policy briefing including agendas and fact sheets, please visit the News and Resources section on <http://www.CaseyFamilyServices.org>.

<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

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C. Other Resources

- Judicial Check Sheets
 - Completion of adoption hearing
 - Completion of adoptive parent(s) homestudy
 - Planning for permanency (all hearings)
 - Identifying connections for youth
 - Planning for permanency: handout for judicial officers
 - Parentage/paternity inquiry
 - Planning for permanency (removal hearings)
- **Comment Form (We Welcome Your Suggestions)**

COMPLETION OF ADOPTION HEARING

(For use at any permanency hearing where adoption is a permanent plan)

FREED FOR ADOPTION																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relinquishment date (mother) _____ ▪ Relinquishment date (father) _____ ▪ Termination of Parental Rights date: _____ ▪ Date appeal expires: _____ (60 days from entry of order) <small>(Welf. & Inst. Code § 366.26(b)(1) and California Rule of Court, Rule 37(d))</small> 																																	
ADOPTIVE HOME IDENTIFIED																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date home identified: _____ ▪ Foster/Adoption Home? _____ ▪ Date child began residing in home: _____ ▪ Date Adoption Placement Agreement (APA) signed: _____ ▪ Date 6 months of supervision expires: _____ ▪ What is the earliest date the Adoption Petition can be filed? _____ 																																	
HOMESTUDY OF ADOPTIVE PARENT(S)																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date homestudy began: _____ ▪ Is this an abbreviated homestudy? _____ (Family Code § 8730) ▪ What is outstanding: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">Today's date: _____</td> <td style="width: 30%;">To be completed by: _____</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Done</td> </tr> <tr><td>1. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>2. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>3. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>4. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>5. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>6. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>7. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>8. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>9. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>10. _____</td><td>_____</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homestudy completed (date): _____ 	Today's date: _____	To be completed by: _____	Done	1. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
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ADOPTION PETITION (Family Code, §§ 8704; 8714; Welf. & Inst. Code, § 366.26(e))																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption petition filed on _____ ▪ Filed in juvenile court? _____ ▪ Post-adoption contact agreement desired? _____ Filed: _____ ▪ Filed in other court? _____ Name: _____ Place: _____ 																																	
COURT REPORT (Family Code, § 8715; Cal. Code of Regs., § 35211)																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Court report to be filed by: _____ ▪ Date set for final hearing: _____ Place: _____ 																																	
CHECKLIST FOR FINAL HEARING																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Report filed by Department of Social Services (or other agency) with court <input type="checkbox"/> Court Report of Adoption (VS-44 – birth record info.) filed with court <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing date set for: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Final documents to be prepared by: _____ 																																	

COMPLETION OF ADOPTIVE PARENT(S) HOMESTUDY

[Cal. Code of Regs., Title 22, Div.2., Part 2, Sub.4, Chapt.3, Sub.5, Art.11, §§ 35180–35211; Family Code, §§ 8604–8607, 8730; 8714.7, Welf. & Inst. Codes, §§ 366.26, 16000–16601]

DESCRIPTION OF ADOPTIVE PARENT HOMESTUDY ITEMS NEEDED (FAM. CODE, § 8715)	Date to be completed by:
FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT WITH EACH APPLICANT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First face-to-face contact with each applicant (in home interview) <input type="checkbox"/> Second face-to-face contact with each applicant (separately with each applicant) <input type="checkbox"/> Third face-to-face contact with each applicant (joint interview if necessary?) <input type="checkbox"/> Additional interviews if necessary? Why? 	
IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (AGENCY SHALL OBTAIN AT LEAST ALL OF THE FOLLOWING):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identifying information received (full name, aliases, maiden name, current address and telephone number, date of birth and gender) <input type="checkbox"/> Blood relationship to child, if any <input type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnic background information <input type="checkbox"/> Religion, if any <input type="checkbox"/> Verification of employment or income <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate, if married <input type="checkbox"/> Verification of termination of prior marriages <input type="checkbox"/> Names, date of birth, general information for other people in home and personal or biological relationship to applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Names, dates of birth, and location of minor child of applicant not living in applicant's home <input type="checkbox"/> Report of medical examination of each applicant (by licensed physician or nurse practitioner) <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute health questionnaire (as determined by social worker) for medical report if both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant is current caregiver or relative, and Completed questionnaire does not, in social worker's judgment, require further evaluation or report <input type="checkbox"/> A certificate, for each adult in home, stating each is free from communicable tuberculosis <input type="checkbox"/> Names of three references <input type="checkbox"/> Agency received written references <input type="checkbox"/> Results of screening for criminal record (arrests, convictions, diversion) of applicant and other adults in the home <input type="checkbox"/> Results of screening for FBI criminal record if required by California Code of Regulations § 35184(e) (cf. foster care license requires FBI and DOJ clearance) <input type="checkbox"/> Results of screening for prior referrals for child abuse and neglect <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization for information for additional sources, as necessary <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization for adoption agency to release copy of written assessment to other adoption agencies 	

<p>AGENCY SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS OF APPLICANT, CHILDREN AND OTHER ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLD</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Social history ❑ Determination of applicant's commitment and capability to meet BASIC needs of child ❑ Determination of applicant's commitment and capability to meet SPECIFIC needs of child ❑ Applicant's understanding of the legal and financial rights and responsibilities in adoption ❑ Applicant's modification for seeking adoption and ability and willingness to assume permanent responsibility for care, guidance, and protection of child through adoption ❑ Adequacy of housing ❑ Social support system ❑ Financial stability ❑ General characteristics ❑ Preparation or plan of applicant for care of minor in event of death or incapacity of adoptive parent(s) ❑ Ability of applicant to work with the Department of Social Services in support of case plan for dependent child ❑ Whether applicant is willing and able to be a permanency planning family 	
<p>IF RELATIVE, AGENCY SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Nature of relationship applicant has with birth parent or extended family members ❑ Whether applicant would like to enter into kinship adoption agreement and if so: ❑ What kind of post-adoption contact applicant would like to have with birth parent or other family members? ❑ What training has been given on post-adoption contact? 	
<p>IF ADOPTIVE APPLICANT IS A BIRTH PARENT, THE FOLLOWING FACTOR SHALL ALSO BE CONSIDERED:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ <i>If child was a dependent, whether the conditions which led to the child's removal from parent still exist</i> 	
<p>AGENCY SHALL IDENTIFY ANY RESOURCES, SERVICES, OR TRAINING NEEDED TO FACILITATE THE ADOPTIVE APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD.</p>	
<p>List resources and services offered:</p>	
<p>ABBREVIATED HOMESTUDY (FAM. CODE, § 8730) UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Applicant is current caregiver and is licensed or certified foster family home and has cared for the child, under supervision of an adoption or child welfare agency for at least six months ❑ Applicant is an existing relative caregiver, who was assessed under Welfare and Institutions Code, § 361.3, and written documentation of the assessment is available to the adoption agency ❑ Applicant has successfully completed a prior agency, independent, or intercountry adoption in California within the last five years and both conditions exist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An approved written assessment as required by § 35180 (agency), § 35081 (independent), or § 35257 (intercountry) and Written assessment is available to the agency completing the current assessment 	

PLANNING FOR PERMANENCY (ALL HEARINGS)

PRIMARY PERMANENT PLAN	
<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Return Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardianship <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent placement with _____, a fit and willing relative <input type="checkbox"/> Placement with _____, and a specific goal of _____. </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> Provide the name of the placement and select as a goal one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return home • Adoption • Legal guardianship • Placement with a relative • A less restrictive foster setting or • Independent living with identification of a caring adult to serve as a lifelong connection for the youth </div> </div>	
CONCURRENT PERMANENT PLAN	
<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Return Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardianship <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent placement with _____, a fit and willing relative <input type="checkbox"/> Placement with _____, and a specific goal of _____. </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> Provide the name of the placement and select as a goal one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return home • Adoption • Legal guardianship • Placement with a relative • A less restrictive foster setting or • Independent living with identification of a caring adult to serve as a lifelong connection for the youth </div> </div>	
SERVICES	VISITATION
(Welf. & Inst. Code, § 319(d)(2), 366, 366.21(f))	(Welf. & Inst. Code, § 362.1, 366)
What issue is each service to address? Is service realistic to overcome the specific issue? Do services address safety concerns? Does each service address primary concerns? Does each service address secondary concerns? Do services promote primary plan? Do services promote the concurrent plan? Do we need to change any of the services? Indication of additional services necessary? Indication of removing services?	How often? Visitation adequate to meet FR deadline? Who is to participate in visitation? Where will visits take place? Who will supervise visitation? Problem with transportation? When is first visit? Are siblings visiting separate? Why?

IDENTIFYING CONNECTIONS FOR YOUTH

PARENTAGE	Name of Person	Located	Contacted	Interviewed	Placement	If no placement provide reason	Does child wish to Maintain contact?
Mother							
Presumed Father							
Alleged Father(s)							
Step-parent							
Guardian							
Other							
MATERNAL RELATIVES							
Grandmother							
Grandfather							
Aunt(s)							
Uncle(s)							
Siblings							
Extended Family Member							
PATERNAL RELATIVES							
Grandmother							
Grandfather							
Aunt(s)							
Uncle(s)							
Siblings							
Extended Family Member							
RELATIONSHIPS							
Godparent							
Neighbor							
Neighbor							
Prior Foster Parent							
Teacher							
Teacher							
Coach							
Friend's Parents							
Other							

PLANNING FOR PERMANENCY

HANDOUT FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Judicial Officer's Role in Permanency
 - 1. Leadership
 - 2. Timely Justice
 - 3. Effective and Efficient Proceedings
- B. Objectives for This Training
- C. Expanding Approaches and Definitions Relating to Permanency
 - 1. Permanence
 - 2. Concurrent Planning
 - 3. Personal Connections
 - 4. Identified Placement With a Specific Goal
 - 5. Termination of Parental Rights
 - 6. Youth-Driven Decision Making

II. FIRST OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER PERMANENT PLAN AND CONCURRENT PERMANENT PLAN

- A. Initial Hearings
 - 1. Findings
 - 2. Services
 - 3. Connections – Parentage
 - 4. Visitation
 - 5. Timelines
- B. Engaging Youth and Family
- C. First Opportunity to Exit the System

III. Concurrent Planning

- A. Under 3
- B. 4–10/12 Latent Youth
- C. Older Youth

IV. ENGAGING YOUTH IN DECISION MAKING

- A. Contact With Social Worker, Attorney, CASA, Service Providers
- B. Opportunity to be Heard
- C. Education/Extracurricular Activities
- D. Meaningful Relationships
- E. Independent Living Skills

V. PERMANENCY HEARINGS

- A. Identify Permanent Plan
- B. Timelines/Notice
- C. Termination of Parental Rights/No Termination of Parental Rights
- D. Adoption/Homestudy Process
- E. Kinship Placements
- F. Identified Placement With Specific Goal

VI. POSTPERMANENCY HEARINGS

- A. Revisit Permanent Plan
- B. Meaningful Relationships
- C. Identified Placement With Specific Goal (Concurrent Plan)
- D. Adoption Finalization
- E. Revisit Family Reunification

VII. OBSTACLES AND SOLUTIONS IN PERMANENCY

- A. Private Agencies
- B. Dependency Court Mediation
- C. Family Conferencing
- D. Open Adoption
- E. Guardianship With Visitation/Contact
- F. Older Youth
- G. Adoption Month
- H. Permanency Partners Project [P3]

PARENTAGE/PATERNITY INQUIRY
(Welfare and Institutions Code §316.2; Cal. Rules of Court Rule 1413)

PRESUMED FATHER STATUS – Marriage or Birth Certificate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother married and living with husband (Family Code §§ 7540, 7611) <input type="checkbox"/> Name of husband: _____ or <input type="checkbox"/> Name of father on birth certificate and child born after 1/1/95 (Family Code §§ 7570, 7611) <input type="checkbox"/> Name of child: _____ Date of birth: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Order copy of birth certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of birth certificate in court file: _____	
PRESUMED FATHER STATUS – Voir Dire of Parent(s) and Others	
<input type="checkbox"/> Father and mother are or have been married and child born during the marriage; (or within 300 days after marriage terminated) (Family Code § 7611(a)); or <input type="checkbox"/> Before birth of child, father and mother attempted to marry (and attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid), and each of the following are true: 1. If terminated by court order (death, invalidity, annulment, divorce), child born during attempted marriage or within 300 days after its termination; and 2. If marriage invalid without court order, child born within 300 days after termination of cohabitation. (Family Code § 7611(b)); or <input type="checkbox"/> After child's birth father and mother have married or attempted to marry, though marriage is or could be Declared invalid and either (Family Code § 7611(c)): 1. With his consent, father is named on birth certificate; or 2. He is obligated to support child under written voluntary promise or court order	
LEGAL FATHER STATUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Another court finding of paternity Name of Court: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Another court ordered child support Name of Court: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Paternity blood test conducted Results: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of any of above to court file	
ALLEGED FATHER – Man Identified and Present in Court (Voir Dire)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Name of father: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Asked presumed father questions above <input type="checkbox"/> No presumed father status found <input type="checkbox"/> Court orders blood test <input type="checkbox"/> Asked legal father status questions above <input type="checkbox"/> No legal father status found	
ALLEGED FATHER – Man Not Present in Court - Information Sought to Identify and Locate (Voir Dire)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother names father in court Name provided: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Date of his birth: _____ Place of birth: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Present address or whereabouts: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Employer: _____ Type of employment: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> School attending: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Armed forces <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ; Name of Branch: _____ Place where stationed: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Where did you meet father: _____ Does he know of pregnancy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Names of friends or relatives: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Did you tell him that he is the child's father? <input type="checkbox"/> Has he provided money or items to help with pregnancy or support?	
COURT ORDERED INQUIRIES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paternity Inquiry – JV-500 ordered to child support division <input type="checkbox"/> Results of inquiry _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Blood test ordered Results: _____	

PLANNING FOR PERMANENCY – (REMOVAL HEARINGS)

Part One

CAN CHILD BE RETURNED HOME IF COURT ORDERS SERVICES

(Welf. and Inst., Code §§ 306(b)(1)(2)(3), 306.5, 309(a), California Rules of Court, Rule 1445(b))

- Before taking child into custody, social worker shall consider whether child can remain safely at home
 - ❑ Are there reasonable services available, which would eliminate need for removal?
 - ❑ Will a referral to public assistance eliminate need for temporary custody?
 - ❑ Can non-offending caregiver provide for and protect the child?
- Social worker shall place the child with siblings or half-siblings also detained, if practical and appropriate (document).

REASONABLE EFFORTS DETERMINATION (Welf. and Inst., Code § 319(d)(a); Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 1446(b)(c))

- Whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the removal from his or her home, **AND**
- Whether there are available services that would prevent the need for further detention, such as:
 - ❑ case management
 - ❑ counseling
 - ❑ emergency shelter care
 - ❑ emergency in-home caretakers
 - ❑ out-of-home respite care
 - ❑ teaching and demonstrating homemakers
 - ❑ parenting training
 - ❑ transportation
 - ❑ any other child welfare services
 - ❑ public assistance services

DETENTION ALTERNATIVES (Welf. and Inst., Code § 319(f); Cal. Rules of Court, Rule 1446(e))

- Approved home of relative
- Emergency shelter
- Another suitable licensed home/facility
- A place exempt from licensure if specifically designated by the court, or
- Approved home of a non-relative extended family member (Welf. and Inst., Code § 362.7)
 - ❑ Court must consider social worker recommendation, based on the approval of relative or non-relative home, including results of criminal records or prior reports of abuse

**Administrative Office of the Courts,
Center for Families, Children & the Courts**

Court Adoption and Permanency Month Guide

We Welcome Your Comments and Suggestions

Comments can be submitted by either faxing or e-mailing the form below, or by calling the Center for Families, Children & the Courts:

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Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts
Center for Families, Children & the Courts
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**You can obtain more information and find a copy of the Guide on our Web site:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc.**

2006 brought many changes and a redesign of the guide. Have you ever received a Court Adoption and Permanency Month Guide in the past? Did you use it in planning any events or as a resource tool for finding permanent connections for youth?

The guide has been reorganized to highlight specific themes and programs and to provide an easy reference for each local court system. Are there any new changes to the design that you would find more helpful?

Continued

Permanency continues to be redefined and understood in a new way. Each section in the guide focuses on different ways in which families, the courts, practitioners, and the children themselves may work together to achieve permanency. Are there any other resources you would like added? Any new programs?

Is there anything you feel we could improve about the guide? Are there any materials for which there is more current information available to replace an outdated resource?

How can we involve more local courts, public and private agencies, CASA, as well as other service providers with this guide, and also for more ideas and resources?

Any other comments or suggestions?

Name:

Title:

Court/Organization:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Thank You!